



FAO: Planning Department,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Ref: 6/2019/3245/LB
Date: 14/01/2020

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION ADVICE

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: Comet Hotel, St Albans Road West, Hatfield, AL10 9RH

The application is for the installation of 2x Illuminated signage (2 no. locations)

The Comet Hotel is a grade II listed building (list entry no: 1101036). Designed by E. B. Musman, it was constructed in 1933 and is characteristic of the Art Deco style. In plan it was intended to reference the shape of an aeroplane; the two rounded side projections depicting the wings.

Consent has previously been granted for the installation of signage (6/2019/0957/LB) on the front curved wall (north-east) and above the main doors on both the north-west and south-east elevations. The proposal was revised due to concerns over the prominence of the originally proposed signage on the north-west elevation. The signage was relocated from the parapet down to the first floor above the doorway.

It is now proposed to install signage on the rounded ends of the "wing" projections. Historic photographs show that originally there was no signage in these locations. The streamlined appearance, simple details and sharp lines of the building are fundamental aspects of its style and character. The installation of further signage is considered to clutter the elevations and detract from its architectural interest.

The proposed signage is considered to harm the significance of the listed building and an objection is raised. The harm is 'less than substantial' as per paragraph 196 of the NPPF. Regard should also be given to paragraph 193 which affords 'great weight' to the conservation of heritage assets.

Yours sincerely

Maria Kitts BA (Hons) MA PGCert
Senior Built Heritage Consultant
Place Services

Note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter

